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Mtt.7:6 Give not that which is holy unto the dogs,
Neither cast your pearls before the swine,
lest haply they trample them under theor feet
and turn and rend you.

Intro. The unsatisfactory interpretation of the commentators.

A difficult passage, seldom used as a text, and glided over by the scholars.

It s usual interpretation-Whereas Jesus just before uttering these words had given warning against judging others lest we ourselves be found huilty, nevertheless, wuld have us avoid theother extreme of failing to show careful discrimination. The pearls of religious truth are not to be cast before the brutal, the blasphemous and the cruel. No use giving Gospel to the unappreciative

We aim to understand this passage both from its context and from the person who says these words.

I. Jesus would not use the terms "dog" and "swine" to designate any human beings however low or sunken or sin-scourged they may be.

1. To the Jew the swine and the dog were held in contempt as a mark of degredation.

The Jews spoke of Gentiles as "dogs" and the Mohammedans speak of Xns also as "dogs".

2. But nowhere does Jesus speak of mankind in such terms. True, he called Herod a fox, and with good reason. X also called the pharisees hypocrites, blind guides, whited sepulchres, serpants, offspring of vipers. But the circunstances under which Jesus spoke these terms and their application are entirely different from those under which he spoke our text.

Jesus always spoke of and treated human beings in terms of royalty. Jesus taught that God loved all men, even those who were deep in sin, loved them so compassionately that He gave His only begotten son.

Jesus uttered some of his greatest truths to the lowest of sinners. The woman at the well, a Samaritan and a fallen woman. No, Jesus never called anyone created in the image of God a swine or a dog.

II. This text cannot be taken to excuse us from helping those who repulse our efforts so to do.

How often we hear the expression, "There is no use trying to convince that man of the Gospel truth, you might as well cast pearls before swine."

Thus we often excuse ourselves from our own limited interest.

Peter's question asking Jesus how many times he was to forgive.

Jesus attempt to honor Judas at the last supper by giving Judas the sop, which was a mark of distinction shown to an honored huest, may it not have been an effort of Jesus to save, even at the very last minute the one who had planned to betray him?

III. The explanation according to the content.

Christ's cartoon of the man with a plank in his own eye trying to remove a tiny splinter from the eye of another. It is wrong to condemn or judge others when we ourselves are guilty, perhaps in larger measure, of the samy thing for which we judge them.

In the same connection it is as futile for a man to try to lift another to the higher life when he himself is in greater need of Divine aid as it is give that which is holy unto the dogs or cast pearls before swine.

Do not expect to reform a man of exaggerated speech if you are given to lying or tale-bearing.

Do not expect to win a man to Christ when you yourself are not living the Christ life.

One must be purged of his own sins before he attempts to cleanse others from their sins.

IV. Our text warns against men and women giving their best to unworthy goals.

The tendency within man to throw himself away, to dissipate his highest and best on objects unworthy and sinful.

We should not throw our lives away. Do not use your divinely created and imaged mind to think thots that are devilish. Do not use your divinely endowed will in conduct and deeds that are degrading and evil. Do not sacrifine yourself to for that which is merely pleasurable. For to do so is just like throwing pearls before swine or giving that which is holy to the dogs.

The world full of sordid tragedies, the daily papess are full lives crushed and ~~lives~~ bodies maimed. But there are tragedies in which there are no physical pains, tragedies of men and women, gifted in mond and heart, who give themselves to unworthy things. They live out their y years busy enough and burn up their energies, but not with the great things of life that make for solid character or

a safe and secure social order. They fritter away their time and talents and leave nothing behind that is really constructive and worth while.

The example of the young noted physician who had gained for himself an enviable reputation for medical skill and benevolent deeds' in middle life married a brilliant woman but worldly. His wife gradually enticed him away from helping others gratuitously and from being so absorbed in his profession. He soon became noted for his brillian playing on the golf links, and finally took up for his hobby dogs and became noted as a remarkable dog fancier. When he died his reputation as a physician was hardly referred to in the ~~obituaries~~ write-ups, but his wonderful knowledge of dogs was spoken of widely. He had literally given the pearls of talent to the dogs! Many a rich society woman bestowing her God-given love upon a puppy dog instead of upon a baby of her own, created in the image of God!

We are not only created in the image of God but were put on this earth to live godly lives, and when, insted, we live like animals, we are giving that which is holy unto dogs and casting our pearls before swine.

The great rule of life is the Golden Rule- doing unto others-, and the great rule of happiness is Service- doing for others; and when, instead, we live only unto ourselves unmindful of others, we are giving to dogs and casting to swine.

The end of animal living, of selfish living, is the destruction of our higher life. The lower consumes the higher when the higher does not control the lower.